



## ***Changing Faces Women's Leadership Seminar*** Women as Innovators and Entrepreneurs

**July 7 – 20, 2019**  
Oahu ♦ Maui

### **Speaker Biographies**

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#### **Saliza ABDULLAH**

*Managing Director, BG Capital Holdings Sdn Bhd, Malaysia*

Saliza Abdullah is the managing director of BG Capital Holdings Group of Companies – Malaysia's 27-year-old, multi-award winning, 100% women-owned and managed security company. Ms. Abdullah is also the founder of BGCH For The Community, a social enterprise initiative advocating awareness on empowerment and personal safety; and owner of THEBASE, a community event space in Subang Jaya. As a second-generation entrepreneur, she turned around the family business from a single entity to a corporate group of companies with more than 500 employees and has diversified into technologies, risk management, training and consultancy. Currently, Ms. Abdullah is serving as deputy president of The National Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Malaysia, treasurer of Koperasi Keselamatan Berhad, EXCO of Malaysian Security Industry Association and member of the Asian Professional Security Association. She is also the project director for L'OREAL-NAWEM Women in Business, a social enterprise program which helps women in the B40 household. Ms. Abdullah is a multi-award recipient for her entrepreneurial achievement and contributions to the community. She was winner of The Purdue Society of Women Engineers' Managerial Potential Award in 2000; The National Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Malaysia Women Entrepreneurs Award for Services Sector in 2006; Utusan Karya's Anugerah Wanita Ikon in 2008; NCWO Young Iconic Award for Entrepreneurship in 2015; Malaysian Service Providers Confederation (MSPC) SME Icon Award in 2017; KLSCWO Women of Excellence in 2019; and One Caring Heart Malaysia Leadership Excellence Award in 2019. Ms. Abdullah graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering and obtained her MBA from Multimedia University, Cyberjaya. She is also an HRDF certified trainer and a crime prevention specialist certified by the Chartered International Institute for Security and Crisis Management; a columnist for *Awas Wanita of Utusan Karya's Wanita Magazine* for 7 years; an alumni and first Malaysian woman entrepreneur selected for The East-West Center's Changing Faces Seminar in 2010; panelist for Selangor ASEAN Business Conference 2018; presenter at the SIRIM-WAITRO International Conference 2018, and panelist for the Malaysia Urban Forum 2019.

#### **Sarah R. ADAMS**

*Supervisor, Alii Kula Lavender, Maui, Hawaii*

Sarah Adams is a supervisor at the Alii Kula Lavender farm located on the rural slopes of Haleakala in Maui, Hawaii. For the past decade, Ms. Adams has participated in off-site events, farmer's markets, and group events which highlight the lavender farm as one of the leading examples of a vibrant and collaborative agricultural-tourism venue in the state of Hawaii. Ms. Adams is also involved in the social media and customer service sides of the business, managing reservations with the farm, as well as placing phone orders for the company's online store. She also conducts guided tours and is often the spokesperson for the farm in both print and television. Born and raised on Maui, Ms. Adams is an alumni of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting and mixed media. She also works independently as a freelance artist, graphic designer, and silkscreen printer.

**The Changing Faces Women's Leadership Seminar is funded by the East-West Center**

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options.

**Gretchen ALTHER**

*Senior Leadership Development Specialist, Professional Development, East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Gretchen Alther builds programs that strengthen individual and community leadership. She is currently expanding the East-West Center's leadership programs for women, and is managing an innovative, blended ("on-line and on-island") program to incubate leadership among women in the Pacific Islands. Ms. Alther has directed the Center's flagship residential course, the Asia Pacific Leadership Program, and contributes to other short- and long-term training both in Hawaii and across the region. She designs and delivers curriculum that supports experiential learning and strategic thinking across a range of topic areas. With over 15 years of experience as an international educator and humanitarian, Ms. Alther infuses her program design with a commitment to equity and to grassroots communities.

Ms. Alther has also worked with Human Rights Education Associates, for which she has designed and delivered e-learning courses for senior international humanitarian and development professionals. As an occasional consultant with the EarthWatch Institute, she facilitates sustainability leadership programs around the world for global corporations. Previously, Ms. Alther designed and managed multimillion-dollar programs to support disaster relief, conflict zone aid, and resilience in marginalized communities in the U.S., Myanmar, Pakistan, Nepal, Gaza, Colombia, Haiti, and beyond. She earned an MA in sustainable international development from the Heller School of Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, a postgraduate certificate from the East-West Center, and a BA in Latin American studies and natural resources management from Texas A&M University. Ms. Alther was a 2018 Rotary Peace Fellow and earned a certificate in peace and conflict resolution at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

**John BARKAI**

*Professor of Law, William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hawaii*

John Barkai joined the Williams S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1978. Prior to coming to Hawaii, he was a criminal trial lawyer in Detroit and a tenured faculty member at Wayne State University Law School. Professor Barkai also served previously as associate dean at the law school. He currently directs the clinical program and teaches alternative dispute resolution, evidence, and prosecution clinic. In addition, he teaches conflict resolution and international negotiations for the University of Hawaii College of Business Administration. Professor Barkai was chosen by the students and faculty as the Outstanding Professor of the year. He is active in the legal community as president of the Board of Directors of the Neighborhood Justice (Mediation) Center, chair of the ADR Section of the Hawaii State Bar, and president of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. In addition, Professor Barkai has served as a consultant to the Hawaii Judiciary, the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia, the State Court of Kosrae, and the Minister of Justice for Papua New Guinea. In 1992-93 he was a visiting senior scholar at the City University of Hong Kong and has taught ADR courses and workshops in Australia, Finland, Hong Kong, Hungary, Japan, Korea, and Micronesia.

**Uyanga BATZOGS**

*Executive Director/Founder, Quality Life, Mongolia*

Uyanga Batzogs served as CEO of Proliance LLC, private company in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia between 2011 and 2018. Proliance LLC is a medical equipment distributor company for well-known manufacturers such as GE Healthcare (USA), Sysmex Corporation (Japan), and Karl Storz (Germany) and provides maintenance service to over 100 hospitals and clinics in Mongolia. It also has a retail and wholesale pharmacy operation and commercial laundry business. During the past 6 years under Ms. Batzog's leadership, Proliance's revenue grew 5 times since 2011. In addition, Ms. Batzogs established "Quality Life" NGO in 2015 and serves as the executive director. Quality Life supports seniors to have active lives by socializing and provides an opportunity for seniors to have part time employment and contribute to the community in the areas of education, healthcare and business administration. Previously, Ms. Batzogs was chief financial officer at Waimanalo Health Center, a non-profit

community health center in Hawaii, for 5 years. As part of the executive team, she managed an annual budget of 5 million USD in grants and patient service revenue and contributed to improving the financial stability of the organization and expanding its service scope to uninsured patients who have limited access to quality health care. During her employment, the health center opened dental services for the first time in the rural community of Waimanalo. Ms. Batzogs received her MBA from the University of Hawaii in 2006 and received the Best Student in International Business honor in 2005 while pursuing her degree. She graduated with honors from Northwest University with a bachelor's in business administration. In 2018, Ms. Batzogs received an East West Center Graduate Fellowship and is currently pursuing her PhD at the Social Work school of the University of Hawaii.

**Cleo BROWN**

*Principal Consultant, TEK Consulting Service, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Cleo Brown is the principal consultant of TEK Consulting Service, a collaborative consulting group. TEK's practice includes Blue Ocean strategic planning, organizational design and executive coaching. She is the former head of ING Direct's eight innovative Internet cafés and sales centers promoting direct banking in Hawaii and across major cities in the USA. Her experience includes former vice president of human resources and business development at Zenbanx, president and principal consultant at Diverse Services, Inc, vice president of Custom House Global Foreign Exchange, and senior vice president at Thomas Cook Currency Services, Inc. where she was responsible for North American retail and global airports. She started her career with Deak-Perera Hawaii, Inc. A member of the Hawaii Community Benefits Consultant, a network of independent consultants working to advance the greater good in Hawaii. She is also a member of Chaminade University's Hogan Advisory Board, past chair of BBB-Hawaii, vice chair of Lanakila Pacific Foundation and a volunteer for the U.S. Small Business Administration's Emerging Leaders. Ms. Brown has many years of experience in business including strategic planning, business performance improvements, human resources, finance and IT. In Hawaii, she has consulted with notable groups such as Alu Like, Inc., Hale Ku'ai Cooperative, Kamehameha Schools, Business Consulting Resources, Hawaiian Host, Inc., Family Programs Hawaii and EPIC Ohana, Inc. to name a few. In 2018, Ms. Brown completed testing for Hawaii's Life & Health insurance licenses to become a retirement planner as a certified educator focused on the Department of Education's retirement and 403 (B) plans.

**Katie CHANG**

*Executive Director, Center for Tomorrow's Leaders, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Katie Chang is the executive director of the Center for Tomorrow's Leaders (CTL), an organization dedicated to engaging, equipping and empowering a new generation of leaders in Hawaii. Ms. Chang is a proud alumnus of the very first class of CTL Fellows and since her appointment in 2011, she has expanded the CTL from its flagship fellows program to include the Innovative Schools Program which offers leadership development directly to Hawaii's high schools. Ms. Chang is a certified presenter of the nationally-acclaimed Student Leadership Challenge which is the foundation of the program. Prior to joining the CTL, she worked as an advisor for the US/UK Fulbright Commission in London. Ms. Chang also served as an intern in the Hawaii State Legislature and the Governor's Office. She is a summa cum laude graduate of Pepperdine University.

**Amanda CORBY NOGUCHI**

*Creative Director and Owner, Under My Umbrella Inc. and Co-founder, Pili Group LLC, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Amanda Corby Noguchi is owner and creative director of Under My Umbrella (UMU). Launched in 2009, UMU is known across the islands for its event production and communications work with sustainable local businesses, neighborhood redevelopment projects, capacity building and nonprofit organizations. Ms. Corby Noguchi is also co-founder of Pili Group – a nationally recognized food group that features the talents of her life and business partner, Chef Mark “Gooch” Noguchi. In 2012, Ms. Corby Noguchi and her partners launched Taste Table, a collaborative project aimed to support Hawaii's culinary community. This “pop-up” location for chefs reflected her longstanding interest in building capacity and providing opportunities for the creativity and talent of local

people. Serving as one of the founding board members of the Hawaii Food Policy Council, she has also helped refine the focus and identity of the food movement in Hawaii. By providing community building educational forums, workshops, and farm-to-table dinner events, Ms. Corby Noguchi has help lead the process of democratizing Hawaii's food system and its policy processes.

### **Daniel Ikaika ITO**

*Communications and Social Media Manager, FCH Enterprises, Inc., Zippy's Restaurants, Honolulu, USA*

Daniel Ikaika Ito's journalism career started at *Surfing Magazine* in San Clemente, California where he interned for three semesters before becoming a contributing writer. Shortly thereafter he moved to Oahu and became the first native Hawaiian editor of a surf publication while working at *Free Surf Magazine* from 2005-2007. After two years of grinding it out at a monthly magazine, Mr. Ito went back to college and turned to freelance journalism. While pursuing a bachelor's degree at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM), he worked in public relations for the Vans Triple Crown of Surfing, Red Bull and Oxbow while he also covered surfing as a reporter for the *Star Bulletin*, the *Star Advertiser* and ESPN.com.

Before graduating with his journalism degree from UHM, Mr. Ito and six friends founded *Contrast*, Honolulu's first avant-garde magazine dedicated to reporting, enlightening and appealing to the forward-thinking demographic. The seven local boys started *Contrast Magazine* LLC in February 2008 and self-published the first issue (*Contrast #00*) in February 2009. He is also part-owner and director of sales and marketing of Pai'ea Projects, a boutique Hawaiian design firm comprised of Kamehameha class of 1999 graduates. In addition, he was also a content coordinator in HMSA's marketing and communications department as well as director of sales and marketing for Waiola coconut water. After two years with Waiola coconut water, Mr. Ito returned to journalism, working at Pacific Basin Communications where he was digital media manager of *Mana Magazine*, online editor of *Hawaii Magazine* and digital media director of *Hawaii Business Magazine*. He also gives back to his alma matter as a coach for the Kamehameha Schools Kapālama Surf Team and is the founding-president of 'Ahahui Haku Mo'olelo, the Hawaiian Journalism Association. Mr. Ito is a Pacific Century Fellow and a member of the 2019 cohort.

### **Rachel JAMES**

*Business Development Manager, Holu Hou Energy, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Rachel James is a recent graduate of the Evening Part Time Program at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii – Manoa and currently serves as business development manager at Holu Hou Energy. Previously, she worked for the Hawaii Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies as a project manager, a position she enjoyed following her service as the senior regional representative in the local office of a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Shortly after beginning her service for the Member, Ms. James was encouraged to join her first board, the Advisory Board for the Patsy T. Mink Center for Business and Leadership. Her experiences on this Advisory Board encouraged her to seek additional opportunities to support organizations in her community. Since then, Ms. James has continued to welcome board service as a means to remain engaged with the many entities forwarding remarkable work across the state and nation. She has been involved with the regional boards for the Navy League and the Black Law Student Association, as well as on local boards for organizations such as the Student for Public Outreach and Civic Engagement, the Governor's Advisory Board for Veteran Services, Renew Rebuild Hawaii, and she has recently been appointed the chair of the Governor's Community Based Economic Development Advisory Council. While attending law school, Ms. James merged her experience in renewable energy with her legal knowledge as a fellow of the Energy Justice Initiative. This work has afforded her the opportunity to engage in community energy planning on the neighbor islands and to present her research at the Hawaii Conservation Conference. Her research has focused on international and national models of community resource management and the application of community-based approaches to the development of renewable energy. Ms. James is a graduate of Hawaii Pacific University.

**Karen KNUDSEN**

*Director, Office of External Affairs, East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Karen Knudsen has worked in politics, public diplomacy, public affairs and communications in a multi-ethnic and international environment. She travels widely throughout the Asia-Pacific region for her work. She directs the East-West Center's public engagement and public affairs activities: arts/cultural outreach program; briefings for government officials and military (local, national and international); and community and public relations. She also serves as the East-West Center's military liaison and lead contact/specialist on Burma/Myanmar. Concurrent with her position at the East-West Center, Ms. Knudsen completed 20 years of service setting statewide education policy as an elected member of the Hawaii State Board of Education. Previously, Ms. Knudsen served as Pacific-area specialist with the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council; as outreach coordinator for the University of Hawaii's Center for Pacific Islands Studies; in public affairs at the Hawaii State Judiciary and as public relations executive for a major advertising agency, Milici Valenti DDB Needham. She is also a former Peace Corps volunteer in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. Ms. Knudsen has served on numerous community boards - currently serving as a director on the Japan-America Society in Hawaii and the Air Force Civilian Advisory Council. Ms. Knudsen holds a master's degree in Pacific Islands studies from the University of Hawaii.

**Tracy LARRUA**

*Founder, Poi Planet, Honolulu, Hawaii*

A seasoned pro in the world of public relations and marketing, Tracy Larrua has been described as a communication jack-of-all-trades. A local girl from Kaneohe with a background in hospitality and entertainment, she spent nearly 20 years honing her career in Los Angeles where she is regarded as a publicist and marcom specialist with a focus on integrated public relations. Since relocating back home to Oahu in late 2009, Ms. Larrua splits time between Hawaii and LA. In addition to overseeing PR campaigns for a variety of clients, she conducts workshops for small business owners and non-profit organizations, as well as specializes in one-on-one media training and PR coaching. With a passion for the arts, Ms. Larrua also enjoyed a long career as a dancer and choreographer in Hawaii. She brought her performing arts experience into promotional projects including The Hawaii State Literacy Campaign "Read To Me" and Catholic Charities' Youth-At-Risk Program. In LA, she developed numerous community events as well as produced the annual May Day in LA event for 13 years, which brought a little bit of Aloha Spirit to Hollywood through hula and mele.

**Jeeyun LEE**

*People Development Director, Imua Family Services, Kahului, Maui*

Jeeyun Lee supports a growing staff of nearly 50 at Imua Family Services and has focused on the overall sustainability of the nonprofit's growth. With 17 years of experience in nonprofit's, she has had an educational mission to help disadvantaged children and families connect with services and nature, and works extensively with Title 1 schools. She has also innovated programs such as the Ohana Project, which uses mindfulness-based meditation and nature as catalysts for stress reduction and personal transformation. The program was developed for those facing poverty, incarceration, houselessness and individuals suffering from a mental health or substance abuse diagnosis. Her leadership in the nonprofit arena includes serving as youth and elder services manager for Waikiki Health and clinical operations director for Gregory House Programs. She also served as program coordinator for a state-wide HIV/Hepatitis C early intervention program at Waikiki Health, where she worked in the trenches with those suffering from drug addiction. She launched her career in nonprofit service in the Midwest, then moved to the East Coast where she worked in public health, more specifically in cancer education and outreach, gerontology and children's services.

**Keoni LEE**

*Chief Executive Officer, Hawaii Investment Ready and Co-Founder, Oiwi TV, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Keoni Lee is the chief executive officer of Hawaii Investment Ready, a social enterprise accelerator focused on building capacity in the impact sector. He brings to this role a wealth of impact entrepreneurship experience as a founder of two successful social enterprises. 'Ōiwi TV is an independent media production company that leverages the power of media to reshape the narratives of the modern Hawaiian experience as a strategy for social justice and cultural revitalization. Waiwai Collective is a contemporary Hawaiian gathering space that is catalyzing a community and movement grounded in collective values and shared responsibilities as a foundational strategy to scale impact and mobilize systemic change in Hawaii. He received his bachelor's degree in business management from Oregon State University and his master's in business administration from the Shidler College of Business at the University of Hawaii. Keoni is active in the broader community and is committed to his belief in servant leadership. He volunteers his time on numerous nonprofit boards that focus on impact in education and local food production.

**Josh LEVINSON**

*Principal, JPLEvinson Consulting, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Josh Levinson has spent his career working with communities to address their central issues and concerns and as a Principal of Islander Institute, and its predecessor 3Point Consulting, he has been a planner and advisor to many community-based organizations in Hawaii. Before joining 3Point, Mr. Levinson was field organizer of Neil Abercrombie's successful gubernatorial campaign and director of communications in Governor Abercrombie's office; CEO of Community Links Hawaii, which helped social entrepreneurs jumpstart their enterprises; and deputy director of DC Appleseed, a public interest advocacy organization in Washington, DC. Mr. Levinson's past experiences include working on a large oral history project about African-American life in the segregated South; public radio production at Marketplace Productions in Los Angeles; documenting the occupational health hazards of commercial fishing in North Carolina; and clerking at a civil liberties law practice in Honolulu. Mr. Levinson is a graduate of Duke University and holds a master's degree in Folklore from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he was an Archie Green Fellow.

**Zhafira LOEBIS**

*Co-founder and Chief Marketing Officer, Babyloania.com, Indonesia*

Zhafira Loebis is co-founder and chief marketing officer of babyloania.com, a marketplace for the rental of baby equipment in Indonesia. Aimed to help parents provide the best environment for children to grow up in, Babyloania also provides a solution for parents to do so while saving money and storage space by way of renting. In 2017, Babyloania was selected to receive the first ever grant awarded by the Indonesian Government to private sector, and received a grant in the amount of USD20,000. Now in its fifth year of operation, Babyloania is the largest baby equipment rental company in Indonesia, having managed a product selection of more than 3000 for families in Jakarta and its neighboring cities. Ms. Loebis participated in Changing Faces Seminar in 2016, and since then has implemented her action plan, which was to change Babyloania's business model from a conventional rental company to a marketplace. Now, Babyloania helps parents turn their unused baby equipment into additional revenue. In line with our mission to help fellow parents, we welcome parents to rent out their unused baby equipment, and share the profits. Prior to starting up Babyloania, Ms. Loebis worked as a corporate lawyer in Jakarta where she practiced in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, capital market transactions, investment and energy. She was involved in numerous national and international transactions, such as mergers and acquisitions, IPO and foreign direct investment. She also volunteered for The Indonesian Legal Aid Institute, where she worked on several landmark pro-bono litigation and judicial review cases. Ms. Loebis obtained her Master of Laws degree (LL.M) from Columbia University School of Law, New York City, and her Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Indonesia.

**Jenna LONG**

*Director of Operations, Pacific Biodiesel Technologies, LLC, Hawaii*

Jenna Long is the director of operations at Pacific Biodiesel Technologies, LLC, Hawaii's only commercial biofuel producer and a family-run business that pioneered that form of renewable energy in Hawaii. Pacific Biodiesel, Inc. was founded in 1995 and since its inception, the company has built 13 biodiesel plants on the mainland U.S. and Japan, and completed expansions on several of those plants. With a nameplate production capacity of 5.5 million gallons annually, Pacific Biodiesel's plant on the Big Island opened in 2012 and utilizes state-of-the-art distillation technology to produce the highest-quality biodiesel in the country. In addition to plant operations, Ms. Long works on business development, growing the company's customer base among the state's fuel distributors, utilities and the military, as well as with county governments and businesses with fleets, to get their vehicles on biodiesel. Ms. Long has also been on the board of Recycle Hawaii since 2011, is 2017 Recycle Hawaii board president, and she volunteers with the Sustainable Transportation Coalition of Hawaii, a local offshoot of the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities program. She previously served as sales manager at Cleanway, the Pacific Biodiesel division that collects restaurant grease, and project manager for the Restaurants for Renewables program. Ms. Long received a BA in environmental studies from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

**Susan R. MADSEN**

*Orin R. Woodbury Professor of Leadership and Ethics, Woodbury School of Business, Utah Valley University, Utah*

Susan R. Madsen is the Orin R. Woodbury Professor of Leadership and Ethics in the Woodbury School of Business at Utah Valley University. She is also a distinguished visiting fellow of the Lancaster Leadership Centre in the United Kingdom, a visiting fellow of the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Zagreb (Croatia), and a fellow of The Leadership Trust Foundation in Ross-on-Wye, England. Dr. Madsen has been heavily involved for over a decade in researching the lifetime development of prominent women leaders. She has personally interviewed a host of women university presidents, U.S. governors, and international leaders, and has published widely on her results. In 2012 she presented in NGO sessions at the United Nations in New York and Geneva on women, leadership, and education and was also an invited panelist at the *New York Times* to speak on women and leadership. In recent years she has done research in China, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe. She also travels to the UK annually as an invited delegate, along with top international leadership scholars, for a two-day leadership think tank. In addition to a host of speaking engagements in the U.S., Dr. Madsen has done keynotes and/or presentations in China, Korea, Croatia, England, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Australia, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Canada, Norway, Switzerland, and the United Arab Emirates.

In addition to her work and research, Dr. Madsen has founded a number of influential networks and has twice chaired a global women's conference that resulted in a groundbreaking report titled "The Asilomar Declaration and Call to Action on Women and Leadership." She is also a co-editor for the ILA *Women and Leadership* book series and has co-edited the first three volumes on women and leadership in higher education, women as global leaders, and women and leadership around the world. Dr. Madsen has published over 100 articles, chapters, and reports and presents often in local, national, and international settings. She has also authored or co-edited five books on women and leadership. Dr. Madsen received her doctorate from the University of Minnesota in work, community, and family education with a specialization in human resource development. She also has other degrees in exercise science/wellness and speech communication education and started her career many years ago as a middle school speech and debate teacher.

**Judith MILLS-WONG**

*Finance Instructor (Retired), Shidler College of Business, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Judith Mills-Wong, MBA, CFP® served twenty years as an instructor in the Department of Financial and Economic Institutions at Shidler College of Business at the University of Hawaii, associate director of the Shidler Financial Services and Planning Program, and board member for the UH Financial Literacy Program. Ms. Mills-Wong began her career as a hospital program manager and human resources representative at the University of Washington Joint Schools of Health Sciences. In 1995, she returned to Hawaii and began lecturing at the University of Hawaii. She became a Certified Financial Planner® in 2001 and assisted with the development of the financial services and planning track at the University of Hawaii. Ms. Mills-Wong was a sponsor of the Financial Management Association at Shidler for fifteen years. Prior to her retirement in 2016, Ms. Mills-Wong had been recognized for her innovative teaching and received the Shidler Professor of the Semester and the Dennis Ching Excellence in Teaching Awards. Most recently, she has served as resident director for the UH Study Abroad programs in Paris and Seville. Ms. Mills-Wong received her BA from the University of Colorado at Boulder and her MBA from the University of Hawaii.

**Noriko NAMIKI**

*Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Oahu, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Noriko Namiki is the chief executive officer of the YWCA of Oahu, overseeing three locations across the island. She is responsible for organizational, fiscal and facilities management, board relationships, fund development, programs and services development and implementation, advocacy, community partnerships, and communications. Ms. Namiki joined the YWCA of Oahu as chief communications officer in 2012 with more than ten years of experience as a television journalist for CNN and ABC News. She has also provided communications consulting to Asian, American and European companies to meet the demands and challenges of the global work place. Ms. Namiki is a graduate of Chaminade University with a degree in communications. She also holds a master's degree in social work from the Columbia University School of Social Work.

**Laurien “Lala” NUSS**

*Founder, Conscious Concepts, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Laurien “Lala” Nuss is the founder of Conscious Concepts, which provides project management, event production and conscious travel programming services to social enterprises, community development, educational and nonprofit organizations, whose goals are in service to prosperous impacts and strengthening community health, well-being and resiliency. Conscious Concepts seeks project-based collaborations with community development, nonprofit, ambient-aware enterprises & individuals whose goals are aligned with positively impacting locality based on shared values, experiences & abilities that are globally relevant and locally prosperous. This regenerative enterprise seeks to restore, repair and redefine sectors of society that are seeking new ways of doing good work and smart business. Rooted in aloha aina, positioned at the cutting edge of a “living economy,” and harnessing financial, relational and creative forms of currency to cultivate and restore our primary forms of true waiwai (wealth): ecological, cultural, social & spiritual capital. Born and raised in Hawaii, Ms. Nuss has over 15 years of professional experience around the world in the hospitality & travel industry for multinational cruise lines, private aviation companies and hotel chains within operations, sales, marketing, sustainability and events. The past 8 years have been dedicated to re-cultivating root relationships and repurposing that international corporate experience to be of service to reshaping and redefining community resiliency from a place-based perspective.

### **Pacific Gateway Center**

- Ave A'ASA, Project Assistant, Culinary Business Incubator
- Valerie LAM, Business Development Coordinator
- Hao NGUYEN, Community Planning and Development Specialist
- Glenn SANADA, Deputy Director of Business Development
- Nora SISOUNTHONE, Bilingual Case Manager

The purpose of Pacific Gateway, a community based non-profit organization, is to help immigrants, refugees and low-income residents of Hawaii gain access to opportunities and services through the building of skills that lead to self-sufficiency while respecting the integrity of diverse cultural heritages. By identifying growth sectors and profitable markets, focusing on the diversity of needs for fledgling and established businesses, and helping to eliminate common obstacles faced by entrepreneurs and enterprise growth with requisite training, technical assistance, and access to capital, the PGC enhances the opportunities for job creation throughout the community. Specifically, the PGC has been instrumental in providing more job-creation activities and better education of startup and established entrepreneurs.

### **Mahina PAISHON-DUARTE**

*Managing Partner & Co-founder, Waiwai Collective LLC, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Mahina Paishon-Duarte is co-founder and managing partner of Waiwai Collective, a contemporary Hawaiian space for community, culture and commerce. Ms. Paishon-Duarte is a social entrepreneur who has worked in a number of educational and cultural organizations. Most notably, she is the founding executive director of Paepae o Heeia, served as policy program manager with NOAA Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, and held the position of head of school at Halau Ku Mana and Kanu o ka Aina public charter schools. In addition, she studies and hones her practice as a cultural practitioner with Na Kalai Waa, Halau o ke Aalii Ku Makani and at He'eia fishpond.

Ms. Paishon-Duarte holds degrees from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, University of Hawaii at Hilo, and Hawaii Pacific University. She also serves on the boards of Kahilu Theatre, the Oahu Economic Development Board, Friends of Iolani Palace, and the Trust for Public Land.

### **Scott PAUL**

*Owner & CEO, Kleenco Group, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Scott Paul is the president and CEO of Kleenco Group and its subsidiary companies: Kleenco Corporation and Tile & Grout Solutions. He joined Kleenco Group in December 2012 after leading the acquisition of the 42-year-old company. Mr. Paul's goal is to raise the level of professionalism and accountability for Hawaii's building maintenance industry. Prior to acquiring Kleenco, Mr. Paul was president and CEO of Hoku Corporation, a Nasdaq-listed solar company based in Hawaii. Mr. Paul first joined Hoku in 2003 as its vice president of business development & general counsel. In 2008, he was promoted to COO and in 2010, became CEO and joined Hoku's Board of Directors. Before joining Hoku, Mr. Paul was a corporate attorney and business development professional in the San Francisco Bay Area. Immediately prior to joining Hoku, Mr. Paul worked as director of business development and associate general counsel at Read-Rite Corporation, a publicly traded multi-national company that was acquired by Western Digital Corporation in 2003. Previously, Mr. Paul worked as an attorney at Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison LLP, and Crosby, Heafey, Roach & May (now Reed Smith) law firms, where he represented high tech emerging growth and large-cap public companies, and their investors and underwriters, on financing and acquisition transactions. Mr. Paul earned his JD cum laude from Santa Clara Law School and his BA in psychology from University of California, Los Angeles. He serves the community through his active role on the Board of Directors of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii.

**Grant “Chuggy Bear” SHINDO**

*Owner and Partner at Slug Media LLC, a Marketing Consultancy and Blogger, FrolicHawaii.com, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Slug Media is the brainchild of Grant "Chuggy Bear" Shindo and his longtime friend and colleague, Thomas "@Thomasohhh" Obungen. As a marketing company, Slug Media strives to be an integral part of businesses focused in the food & beverage and hospitality industries in Hawaii and abroad. By leveraging their knowledge of consumer behavior and experience in marketing, branding, PR and content creation, Grant and Thomas help unlock the true potential of their clients. Mr. Shindo is also a blogger with FrolicHawaii.com, a local entertainment and lifestyle website that covers dining, events, nightlife, style, films and other fun things happening in Hawaii. In 2014, FrolicHawaii.com was acquired by Upspring Media, one of Honolulu's fastest growing digital agencies with a client list that spans businesses of all sizes and industries.

**Richard R. VUYLSTEKE**

*President, East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Richard R. Vuylsteke took office as the East-West Center's 11th chief executive in January 2017. A former EWC grantee and staff member, he rejoins the Center after several decades living in Asia and serving most recently as president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. Previously, Dr. Vuylsteke served as president of the American Chamber in Taipei, editor-in-chief of the *Taiwan Review*, and area studies coordinator for the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Institute in Taipei. Earlier in his career, he was a research fellow in East Asian legal studies at Harvard Law School as well as a Fulbright scholar at the University of Rajasthan, India. Originally from Illinois, and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Illinois College, Dr. Vuylsteke was an East-West Center grantee in the 1970s while he earned MA and PhD degrees from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, specializing in Western and Chinese political philosophy. While still a graduate student he joined the Center's staff as a research assistant to the director of the Culture Learning Institute, and later worked as a special assistant to the EWC president with focus on Pacific community topics. In addition, Dr. Vuylsteke taught courses at the University of Hawaii and Chaminade University in Asian history and social, political and legal philosophy. He also worked at the Pacific Forum. Prior to graduate school, Dr. Vuylsteke served three years in the U.S. Army, leaving active duty as a 1st Lieutenant. While in the service, he was stationed in Hawaii at the U.S. Army Pacific Command as chief of the China Desk and later seconded to CINCPAC as chief of the Soviet Far East Desk.

**Betty WHITE**

*Head of School, Sacred Hearts Academy, Honolulu, Hawaii*

Betty White is head of school for Sacred Hearts Academy in Honolulu. The Academy is an all girls' private Catholic school, serving approximately 950 girls from preschool to Grade 12. As the chief operating officer of Hawaii's oldest and largest all girls' school, Ms. White oversees a \$14 million dollar budget, works with a governing board of 19 and inspires quality education for future leaders. The Academy is responsible for thousands of women leaders who are strong family and civic-minded individuals in our community and around the world. Ms. White recognizes the value of mentors being positive role models for young women and her school prepares not only her Academy students, but youth throughout the community. She has embraced participation in robotics because she recognizes the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and its value to the future of Hawaii and to the financial independence of girls. The Academy has flourished in this competitive arena, competing and hosting robotics competitions while working collaboratively with public and private schools. Ms. White stresses and encourages her students to volunteer in the community on an individual basis. Academy students collectively perform over 60,000 hours of community service annually and the school has been recognized nationally as a National School of Character. Ms. White is a former trustee of the National Coalition of Girls' Schools and is currently a director for the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools and the Inter Scholastic League of Honolulu.

**Leslie WILKINS**

*President & CEO, Maui Economic Development Board, Maui, Hawaii*

Leslie Wilkins joined the Maui Economic Development Board in 1999 to launch its Women in Technology program. In 2000 she was elected vice president by MEDB's Board of Directors and in 2017 assumed the role of president & CEO. Leslie directs the Women in Technology (WIT) Project which has grown from a Maui pilot to a national demonstration project, funded in part by the U.S. Departments of Labor, Education and Agriculture. The program serves a statewide constituency of more than 21,000 students, teachers, and industry members each year.

**Michelle YAMAGUCHI**

*Michelle YAMAGUCHI, Sales/Marketing & Chocolate Factory Manager, Waialua Estate Coffee & Chocolate, Honolulu, USA*

After 15 years as a small business owner Michelle Yamaguchi seized the opportunity to work as the sales & marketing manager, chocolate factory manager, and chief taster for Waialua Estate Coffee & Chocolate. Prior to that, Ms. Yamaguchi had two small businesses; Kahala Fresh, a manufacturer of healthy snacks and artisan foods; and Umeke Market Natural Foods & Deli. The chance to grow Kahala Fresh and hone her business focus was what brought Michelle to the Changing Faces Women's Leadership Seminar in 2015. It was an invaluable experience for her, Kahala Fresh, and Waialua Estate Coffee & Chocolate. All small business owners quickly realize the multitude of functions, roles and endless tasks required. The level of dedication, the work ethic, the commitment and unending perseverance it takes is a whole other realization, and for most, they wouldn't have it any other way. Changing Faces, however, is that opportunity to step away, reassess, recharge, share, learn, and feel supported and encouraged by other talented women doing much the same. Michelle has faced setbacks, hardships and yes, has even had to figure out how to let go to move ahead. Sometimes that can be just as important as fighting on.